Testimony of Dr. George Moore, 1967 Senate Hearings.

Senator BREWSTER. Dr. Moore, you do believe it is scientifically possible to remove the dangerous or harmful substances in the gas or in the tar or nicotine and still retain the taste or flavor of the cigarette?

Dr. MOORE. Yes, sir. I think it is possible to make a less hazardous cigarette, not perfectly so, but acceptably so to all of us in Public Health, so people could continue to smoke and their hazard to health would be relatively minimal.

Senator BREWSTER. Let me bear down on the phrase "less hazardous." Very substantially less?

Dr. MOORE. Substantially less, very substantially less. I think we would have no disagreement on that score. We know from epidemiological studies that people smoking, say, less than a half pack a day, have considerably less risk. And, if we could get down below that level, and as I suggested, below 15 milligrams in our cigarettes, I am certain that the public would be much, much safer.

Senator BREWSTER. It would seem to me that this great industry has a highly desirable goal here.

One last question for the time being. What can you tell us about the Strickman filter?

Dr. MOORE. I know nothing about it. As far as I know, it is sort of a secret filter. And, I only know what I have read in the papers.

Senator COTTON. We are as anxious for tomorrow's hearings as you are, Senator.

Senator BREWSTER. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator HARTKE. Senator Morton?

Senator MORTON. I was interested in Dr. Moore's testimony as to the increments in tars and nicotine that may or may not be harmful that results from flavoring or the processing or something of that kind. Do you have any indication that the method of raising tobacco today, the heavy fertilization because of our tight acreage program, is in any way a contributing factor to tars and nicotines?

Dr. MOORE. No, sir, I could not give you an accurate answer to that question. I think it is the kind of question that all of us are saying should have been studied 10 years ago and certainly should be studied now in the same way that we would study other kinds of products that are put into foodstuffs, which are covered by other laws.

Senator MORTON. Do we have any statistics or any facts on what the situation was 25 years ago; what the tar and nicotine content of the smoke would be 25 years ago?

Dr. MOORE. Yes, we have general information as to the characteristics of the cigarettes, the amount of tar and nicotine. In general they were, they had more nicotine and somewhat more tar on the average.

Dr. WYNDER. Yes, Senator. As I said before, I think there has been a reduction in tar and nicotine, overall, in American cigarettes. I think the tight acreage program was favoring that. I think it led to lighter tobacco. I think that, as I said before, the Department of Agriculture is and should be very much interested in this and to see to it that still lighter tobacco can be manufactured. Perhaps we can indeed reduce the tar and nicotine contents of the tobacco leaf further and keep the flavor intact.

In response to your questio
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in the United States.

Senator MORTON. Of cour
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Dr. WYNDER. I think this
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